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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 01004 021400Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /054 W
---------- 084425
R 021325Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4258
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1004

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJECT: MASSAWA CONVOYS RESUME

REF: ASMARA 0985 (DTG 300650Z NOV 76)

1. AS THE FIGHTING ALONG THE KEREN ROAD CAME TO A CLOSE, EPMG AUTHORITIES SHIFTED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE MASSAWA-ASMARA ROUTE, AND THE FIRST CONVOY LEFT ASMARA ON NOV. 29 (REFTEL). THE RETURN CONVOY ARRIVED IN ASMARA IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF NOV. 30. THIS FIRST CONVOY CARRIED BULK FUEL FOR EELPA AND AVGAS. THE CONVOYS TRAVELLED BOTH DIRECTIONS WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE 120 KM. TRIP TAKES SOME 10 HOURS EACH WAY, AS THE ESCORT FORCES INSIST ON SWEEPING THE ROADS FOR MINES, REDUCING THE TRUCKS TO A SNAIL'S PACE.

2. A SECOND MASSAWA-BOUND CONVOY OF 30 TANKERS AND 40 DRY GOODS
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TRUCKS LEFT ASMARA ON DEC. 2 AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN DEC. 3.

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THE RESUMPTION OF A REGULAR CONVOY SCHEDULE BETWEEN ASMARA AND MASSAWA IS EXPECTED TO QUICKLY RELIEVE SEVERAL SUPPLY PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED DURING THE 11-DAY DISRUPTION. THE SHORTAGE OF AVGAS IS THOUGHT TO BE OVERCOME, AND EELPA IS AGAIN BUILDING THEIR STOCKS OF FUEL. EXCEPT FOR SPORADIC SALES OF PREMIUM, MOGAS SALES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ALTHOUGH SUPPLIES IN THE CITY ARE REPORTED TO BE ADEQUATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THERE IS NO KEROSENE FOR SALE IN ASMARA WHICH CAUSES GREAT HARDSHIP FOR MOST RESIDENTS WHO ARE COMPELLED TO COOK WITH THAT FUEL BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL. KEROSENE IS CLEARLY NOT A PRIORITY ITEM FOR THE FIRST CONVOYS, BUT IT IS THOUGHT THAT IT WILL AGAIN BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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